

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 QUEBEC 00054 222118Z  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SP-02 USIA-06 AID-05 EB-08 NSC-05  
TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-07 OMB-01 CEA-01 CIAE-00  
COME-00 FRB-03 INR-10 NSAE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03  
LAB-04 SIL-01 DODE-00 PA-01 AGRE-00 /087 W  
-----120809 222143Z /61

P 221730Z FEB 78  
FM AMCONSUL QUEBEC  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1257  
INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY  
AMCONSUL MONTREAL PRIORITY

CONFIDENTIAL QUEBEC 0054

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PINT PGOV CA  
SUBJECT: CAN HE KEEP IT COOL??

REF: QUEBEC 0053

1. AS REPORTED IN REFTEL. YESTERDAY'S "INAUGURAL MESSAGE" WAS LOWKEYED, CONCILIATORY, AND FOCUSED ON ECONOMIC REVIVAL AND REDUCTION IN UNEMPLOYMENT. GREAT SOCIAL AND CULTURAL PROJECTS SO DEAR TO THE HEARTS OF PQ IDEOLOGUES, WERE NOTABLY MISSING AS WERE NEW PROJECTS WHICH MIGHT REQUIRE LARGE PUBLIC EXPENDITURES. LEVESQUE HAS OBVIOUSLY BEEN READING HIS OWN POLLS AND LISTENING TO MEMBERS OF NATIONAL ASSEMBLY WHO HAVE SPENT PARLIAMENTARY RECESS IN THEIR RIDINGS. BOTH THESE SOURCES ARE REPORTED TO HAVE INDICATED TO PM THAT MASS OF POPULATION IS IN NO MOOD FOR SOCIAL OR POLITICAL ADVENTURES. ON THE CONTRARY, THE ORDINARY VOTERS IS NOW PREOCCUPIED WITH SAGGING STATE OF ECONOMY, HIGH LEVEL OF UNEMPLOYMENT, AND GLOOMY PREDICTIONS OF PROLONGED RECESSION. THEY WANT THEIR GOVERNMENTS AT BOTH PROVINCIAL AND FEDERAL LEVELS TO SHARE THEIR CONCERNS AND TAKE MEANINGFUL ACTION COMBAT REAL ECONOMIC PROBLEMS RATHER THAN TILT AT CONSTITUTIONAL OR

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PAGE 02 QUEBEC 00054 222118Z

CULTURAL WINDMILLS. ABOVE ALL, THE ESSENTIALLY CONSERVATIVE QUEBECOIS POPULATION OUTSIDE MONTREAL IS FEARFUL OF TOO MUCH CONTROVERSY AND HAS BECOME UNEASY WITH LEVELS OF CONFLICT GENERATED BY LANGUAGE LAW GOVERNMENTS AUTO INSURANCE SCHEME AND GENERALLY ANTAGONISTIC RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN PQ AND BUSINESS COMMUNITY.

2. LEVESQUE'S SPEECH APPEARS CONFIRM PERSISTENT RUMORS THAT PREMIER AND MORE MODERATE ELEMENTS IN HIS CABINET HAVE DECIDED TO TRIM SAILS AT LEAST UNTIL AFTER FEDERAL ELECTION EXPECTED LATER THIS YEAR. ON ONE HAND, THEY ARE FEARFUL OF PUBLIC REACTION SHOULD THEY PRESS ON WITH HEAVY MENU OF CONTROVERSIAL SOCIAL REFORM AND POLITICAL MEASURES. ON THE OTHER, THEY WISH REDUCE CONTROVERSY IN QUEBEC TO DEPRIVE TRUDEAU, TO EXTENT POSSIBLE, OF NATIONAL UNITY ISSUES TO EXPLOIT IN HIS FEDERAL ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN. REMAINS TO BE SEEN WHETHER DR. LAURIN AND OTHER DETERMINED REFORMERS IN PARTY AND CABINET CAN BE RESTRAINED BY MODERATE LEADERSHIP. LIVELY AND OFTEN ACCURATE QUEBEC RUMOR NETWORK HAS INCREASINGLY CARRIED REPORTS OF CONFLICT BETWEEN LAURIN AND LEVESQUE OVER RELEASE OF "CONTROVERSIAL" CULTURAL WHITE PAPER LAURIN HAS PRODUCED. TIMING OF THE DOCUMENTS RELEASE LIKELY BE GOOD INDICATOR OF LEVESQUE'S ABILITY TO CONTROL IDEOLOGICALLY ORIENTED ELEMENTS IN HIS CABINET. ABSENCE OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS MINISTER, LISE PAYETTE, CABINET'S LEADING FEMINIST AND PATRONNE OF THE CONTROVERSIAL AUTOMOBILE INSURANCE LAW, FROM YESTERDAY'S ASSEMBLY OPENING, HAS CAUSED INCREASED SPECULATION THAT HER DEPARTURE FROM CABINET OR DEMOTION MAY BE IMMINENT. SHOULD THESE RUMORS PROVE CORRECT, THIS AGAIN WOULD BE INDICATION THAT LEVESQUE DOES ENJOY SUFFICIENT CONFIDENCE IN HIS OWN LEADERSHIP TO TAKE FIRM ACTION AGAINST MEMBER OF CABINET WHO ENJOYES WIDE SUPPORT WITHIN PQ. McNAMARA

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** ECONOMIC RECOVERY, ECONOMIC PROGRAMS  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
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**Decapton Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decapton Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
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**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014